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(54) Title of the Invention: ANTI-FOGGING GLASS AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

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SPECIFICATION

1. Title of the Invention
ANTI-FOGGING GLASS AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD
THEREOF

2. Claims

- (1) An anti-fogging glass characterized by the fact that a thin film of an inorganic oxide such as silica, titania and the like is applied so as to form fine irregularity to the glass surface having a specific thickness.
- (2) A manufacturing method of antifogging glass characterized by the fact that a thin film of an inorganic oxide such as silica, titania and the like is applied to the glass surface by sputtering, having a specific thickness, followed by chemically etching

the surface of said film with a corrosive agent such as hydrogen fluoride under specific condition.

3. Detailed Explanation of the Invention (Industrial Field of Application)

This invention relates to an anti-fogging glass to be used with vehicles and the like and the manufacturing method thereof.

(Prior Art)

Due to the fact that, during rainy weather or in winter, rain droplets attach to the windscreen glass and the rear-view mirror glass to be used with vehicles and the like, and that water droplets form on the windscreen glass and the rear-view mirror glass caused by the moisture release of the passengers, causing the fogging of the

windscreen glass and the rear-view mirror glass, the see-through clarity for the driver drops, which can then interfere with the driving. In order to prevent such fogging of the windscreen glass and the rear-view mirror glass, for instance, a hydrophilic surface active agent was sprayed or coated onto the surface of the windscreen glass and the rear-view mirror glass in the past.

(Problems that the Invention is to Solve)

Nevertheless, the anti-fogging products, as using the above-mentioned methods, lack in durability, and have the problem that the anti-fogging effect does not last long. Also, although there is another method of attaching a transparent plastic sheet that contains a hydrophilic group that is formed with cellulose ester, it is scratch-prone due to the fact that such sheet is soft, lacking in scratch resistance, and is difficult to apply to the windscreen glass and the rear-view mirror glass for vehicles.

This invention is intended to solve the problems in the above mentioned prior art, and its objective is to present an antifogging windscreen glass and rear-view mirror glass and the manufacturing thereof that are fog-resistant in the rainy weather and winter, and has sufficient practical durability.

(Means for Solving the Problems)

Thus, the anti-fogging windscreen glass and rear-view mirror glass in this invention are characterized by the fact that a thin film of an inorganic oxide such as silica, titania and the like is applied so as to form fine irregularity to the glass surface having a specific thickness.

The glass used in this invention can be used for normal windscreen glass and rearview mirror glass. A thin film is formed onto the surface of this glass from an inorganic oxide, such as above-mentioned silica (SiO₂), titania (TiO₂), and others such as alumina (Al₂O₃), indium oxide (In₂O₃; Sn dope) by sputtering. The preferred thickness of the film varies on the types of the inorganic oxide, but 4000~6000Å is appropriate when using silica, for instance.

The durability of the film is insufficient with the film thickness of less than 4000Å, and the effectiveness does not improve by exceeding 6000Å, on the other hand. With sputtering, it is preferable to conduct it at the glass plate temperature of 500°C and greater when the argon sputter gas pressure is about $7x10^{-3}$ Torr, and at the glass plate temperature of 150°C and greater when the gas pressure is about $15x10^{-3}$ Torr.

The film of an inorganic oxide that is formed on the glass surface consists of fine crystal particles. When followed by the chemical etching of the surface of said thin film using a corrosive agent such as hydrogen arsenate alone or in combination with a mixed-acid corrosive agent containing oxidized acids like nitric acid, sulfuric acid and the like, or with salts, the crystal boundary is corroded first due to the fact that it is more corrosion-prone than other sections, forming fine irregularity on the surface. In terms of the corrosion condition, when using a 0.15wt% hydrogen arsenate solution at normal temperature, it is preferable to immerse within this solution for approximately 30 minutes.

It becomes possible from the above operation to obtain an anti-fogging glass with the see-through clarity and sufficient durability.

(Embodiments)

We shall explain this invention in detail using embodiments hereafter. Incidentally, this invention is not limited to the embodiments below.

Embodiment 1: Relationship between the glass plate temperature and argon gas pressure

A windscreen glass plate was inserted into a vacuum container and is decompressed to 10^{-3} Torr. Then argon was introduced as the sputter gas so that the pressure reached $2x10^{-3}$, $7x10^{-3}$, $15x10^{-3}$ Torr in each, and a film was formed of SiO_2 by sputtering on the glass surface at an average thickness of approx. 5000Å. In this case, the glass plate temperature was varied at 60° C,

150°C, 300°C each. The glass plate was removed from the vacuum container after the film formation, which then was immersed for 30 minutes in a 0.15wt% hydrogen arsenate solution at normal temperature, corroding the film surface. Next, after the corroded surface was rinsed with distilled water, the glass plate was immersed in warm water at 60°C for a specific length of time, followed by the removal and further rinsing with distilled water. It was then dried.

In regards to each of the above samples, the angle of contact was measured between the distilled water and the SiO₂ film of the process glass, as shown in Figure 1. In the Figure, 1 denotes the glass plate, 2 denotes SiO₂ sputter film, 3 denotes water droplets, and 4 denotes the angle of contact. Also, the results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Argon Gas	Glass Plate Temperature (°C)			
Pressure (Torr)	60	150 .	300	
2x10 ⁻³	39	28	25	
$7x10^{-3}$	35	22	12	
15x10 ⁻³	30	16	8	

From Table 1, it is clear that the higher the temperature of the glass plate is during the SiO₂ sputter film formation, and also that the higher the argon gas pressure is during the film formation, the lower the angle of contact is versus the water droplets after corrosion, and the easier it gets wet. With those with the angle of contact of 16° or less, the droplets are effectively flat, causing no problem to the visibility.

Incidentally, the unprocessed glass plate showed the angle of contact of 42°, and with the glass plates with the SiO₂ film formed but before being corroded, the angle is 40°. With these glass plates, the water droplets on the surface apparently function as lenses, compromising the visibility. In addition, when the glass is used for the windscreen glass for vehicles, while the normal glass fogs up when it comes to fogging of the interior side due to the body perspiration and the like, the processed glass plate of this

invention with the angle of contact of 16° or less merely becomes wet, lacking the formation of small water droplets and the fogging up thereby.

We shall explain the anti-fogging phenomenon in this invention as follows.

The SiO₂ sputter film 2 has a virtually vertical column structure on the surface of the glass plate 1 that is normally the base plate, as shown in Figure 2. When the SiO₂ sputter film 2 of the above-mentioned structure is corroded under a specific condition within a corrosive agent such as the HF solution, the corrosion of the crystal boundary, that is, in between the columns of the column-like crystal particles, advances ahead of others, as shown in Figure 3. The surface before corrosion 5 transforms to the surface after corrosion 6, forming irregularity to the corroded surface. It is believed that the wettability is the result of the formation of this fine irregularity. Thus, this phenomenon is the same as the ground glass, which has good wettability and whose surface does not attract water droplets.

Also, we can explain the difference in the angles of contact due to the sputtering condition as follows.

When the temperature of the glass plate rises, the structure of the sputter film 2 is such that the thickness of the column-like crystals, that is, the size of the crystal particles, increases, and the irregularity caused by the corrosion becomes rough, as shown in Figure 2. When the argon gas pressure increases, the same phenomenon also occurs.

Where the temperature of the glass plate is low, or where the argon gas pressure is low, extremely small column-like crystals form. Following the corrosion, extremely fine irregularity is formed on the surface of the SiO₂ sputter film 2, and it is believed that the effectiveness against wetness ceases to appear because of this.

What is judged to have the see-through clarity effect is one with an angle of contact of 16° or less. In order to obtain such condition, it is ideal to have, as the conditions for the SiO₂ sputter film formation, the glass plate temperature of

150°C and higher when the argon gas pressure is 15x10⁻³ Torr, and the glass plate temperature of 300°C and higher when the argon gas pressure is 7x10⁻³ Torr.

Embodiment 2: Relationship among concentration of hydrogen arsenate, length of immersion, angle of contact, and fogging value

SiO₂ was formed into a film of a 5000Å thickness by sputtering onto a glass plate at the argon gas pressure of 15x10⁻³ Torr and the glass plate temperature of 500°C. A corrosion test followed by varying the concentration of the hydrogen arsenate solution and length of immersion, measuring the fogging value using a haze meter as standardized by ASTM-D1003-61 as well as measuring the angle of contact with water droplets. There were four measuring points for the fogging value. Incidentally, the fogging value for a normal windscreen glass is approx. 0.15~0.1%. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Angles of contact (top row: degrees) and fogging value (bottom row: %) under various corrosion conditions

immersion time (minutes) Concentration (wt%)	3	10	30	60
2	15~3	5~3	3	3
	0.2~7	5~7	7~8	7~8
0.3	19 0.3	8 1.5~ 2.5	5~7 ~2	5~1 3~4
0.15	35	17	8	8
	0.15~	0.15~	0.15~	0.15~
	1	0.1	0.1	0.1
0.01	40	40	32	21
	0.15~	0.15~	0.15~	0.15~
	1	1	0.1	0.1

From Table 2, it is clear that the corrosion of the sputter film is rapid when using a 2 wt% hydrogen arsenate solution, and that slight fogging was visible to the naked eye after approximately 10 minutes. Also, there is a dispersion in the fogging values. Moreover, the entire surface fogged up after an immersion of 30 minutes or longer, taking an appearance of a ground glass. On the contrary, where a 0.3 wt% hydrogen arsenate solution was used, even though the fogging value did not become too high, the stability was lacking in the angle of contact in that water droplets formed in some local spots when the water was sprayed, leading us to believe that the consistency was missing on the processed surface. With the 0.15 wt% concentration of the hydrogen arsenate solution, the angle of contact was 8° in the immersion time of longer than 30 minutes up to 60 minutes, with the fogging value stabilizing at 0.15~0.1%. Also, the finish appeared extremely consistent, and the wet condition of the surface when the water droplets were sprayed was also consistent. In addition, when the concentration of the hydrogen arsenate solution was lowered to 0.01 wt%, it is believed that the corrosion was generally not progressing with the immersion time of less than 30 minutes. Also, the specific effect was not obtainable even with the immersion of 60 minutes, being inferior in terms of productivity.

Thus, as to the corrosion conditions, it is preferable in the light of the property and productivity to immerse for 30 minutes with a 0.15 wt% hydrogen arsenate solution at normal temperature.

Also, as to the corrosive agent, it goes without saying that one may use a mixed-acid corrosive agent containing oxidized acids like nitric acid, sulfuric acid and the like, or salts, other than hydrogen arsenate.

Embodiment 3: Manufacture of anti-fogging windscreen glass using various inorganic oxides

Using TiO₂, Al₂O₃, In₂O₃ (Sn dope) instead of SiO₂, conducting the same experiment as in Embodiments 1 and 2, it became possible to obtain an anti-fogging windscreen glass

with the improved wettability generally equivalent to SiO₂.

Embodiment 4: Relationship between thickness of SiO₂ sputter film and fogging value

With the film thickness of SiO₂ being varied in the same method as in Embodiment 1, and an anti-fogging windscreen glass was manufactured, and a taper abrasion test was conducted according to JISR3212. Figure 4 shows the relationship between the film thickness before and after the corrosion and the fogging value. As it is obvious from the Figure, the fogging value was under +2% of the standard before the corrosion, but the one with the film thickness below 4000Å showed the fogging value of 3~5%, showing poor scratch resistance. Also, even when the film thickness was great, the effect did not change. Therefore, the preferred film thickness of SiO₂ is 4000 Å~6000Å.

(Effects of the Invention)

As seen above, because the anti-fogging glass of this invention is one whose surface is coated with a thin film that consists of an aggregate of crystal particles of an inorganic oxide having a specific thickness while at the same time having fine irregularity on the surface, it is superior in wettability, and has become ideal for the vehicle windscreen glass and rear-view mirror glass. Thus, even when water was sprayed to the surface of the anti-fogging glass of this invention, no droplets formed, leading to a significant improvement in the see-through clarity versus unprocessed glass.

In addition, in contrast to the products of the past that had the glass surface coated with an anti-fogging agent or a hydrophilic plastic sheet attached, the product of this invention is superior in durability because of the fact that it has a hardened inorganic oxide thin film on the glass surface. For instance, the anti-fogging effect is maintained even after 3,000 hours of the windscreen wiper use.

Also, due to the fact that a thin film of an inorganic oxide is formed on the glass surface by sputtering, the manufacturing method of the anti-fogging glass of this invention is simple and quick. Also, it is possible to variously combine different types of inorganic oxides, and to easily vary the property of the thin film by choosing a condition. In addition, because the irregularity is formed by chemically etching the surface of the thin film, various acids, salts, and combinations thereof can be used as a corrosive agent, allowing for the choice of corrosion condition and for the easy obtainment of an anti-fogging glass with a desired property.

Because this invention is intended to present an anti-fogging glass that resists fogging in rainy weather and in winter, with sufficient practical durability, it not only improves the driving visibility and safety when applied as a vehicle product, but also it adds to the product value of the vehicle. Also, it can be widely used in other fields where good visibility is needed, producing various effects as a special glass material.

4. Brief Explanation of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a cross-section of a drawing showing the angle of contact between the SiO₂ sputter film and water droplets on its surface.

Figure 2 is a drawing showing the structure of the SiO₂ sputter film formed on the surface of a glass plate.

Figure 3 is a drawing showing the shape transformation of the surface of the SiO₂ sputter film before and after chemical etching.

Figure 4 is a diagram showing the relationship between the film thickness of the SiO₂ sputter film and fogging value.

In the Figures:

- 1 Glass plate $2 SiO_2 sputter film$
- 3 Water droplets 4 Angle of contact
- 5 Surface before corrosion
- 6 Surface after corrosion

Patent Applicant: Toyota Motor Corp.

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Figure 1

2 SiO₂ sputter film 1 Glass plate

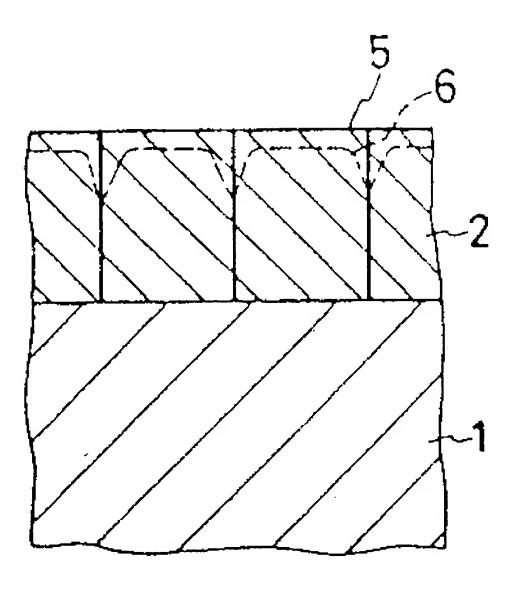
Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

(vertical axis) Fogging value (horizontal axis) SiO₂ film thickness

O...before corrosion
_...after corrosion



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図発明の名称 防曇ガラス及びその製造方法

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1発明の名称

防戮ガラス及びその製造方法

2.特許請求の範囲

- (1) ガラス表面上に所定の厚さで表面に微細な 凹凸を有するシリカ、チタニア等の無機酸化 物の薄膜を形成したことを特徴とする防傷ガ ラス。

3.発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は車桶用等に使用される防殺ガラス及びその製造方法に関するものである。

(従来の技術)

雨天の際又は冬季などには、 車桶用等に使用 されるウインドガラス及びミラーガラス上に雨 (発明が解決しようとする問題点)

本発明は上記従来技術における問題点を解決

するためのものであり、その目的とするところ は雨天や冬季にもほり離く又実用上充分を耐久 性を有する防食ウインドガラス及びミラーガラ ス及びこれらの製造方法を提供することにある。 (問題点を解決するための手段)

すなわち本発明の防殺ウインドガラス及びミ ラーガラスは、ガラス表面上に所定の厚さで表 面に微細な凹凸を有するシリカ、チタニア等の 無機酸化物の符膜を形成したことを特徴とする。

本発明に用いるガラスは通常のウインドガラスを使用することができる。 このガラス表面上に無機酸化物例をは上記シリカ(SiO₂)、チタニア(TiO₂)の外にアルミナ (AL₂O₃)、酸化インジウム(In₂O₃;Snドーブ) 等をスペッタリングにより薄膜状に形成する。 好ましい膜厚は無機酸化物の種類により異なるが、例えばシリカを用いた場合は4000~6000Å 程度とよい。膜厚が4000Å 未超を脱 膜が耐久性に乏しく、逆に6000Å を超えても 効果は変わらない。スペッタリングは例えばで

奥協例1:スパッタリングにおけるガラス板温 度とアルゴンカス圧力との関係

上記の各サンブルについて、第1図に示すように蒸留水と処理ガラスのSiO。成膜面との間の接触角を測定した。図中、1はガラス板、2はSiO。スペッタ膜、3は水商、4は接触角を示す。又、結果を第1表に示す。

ルゴンスペッタガス圧力が 7×10⁻³ Torr 程度の場合はガラス板温度を 300℃以上、又、ガス圧力が 15×10⁻³ Torr程度の場合にはガラス板温度を 150℃以上として行うのが好ましい。

上記操作により透明な外観を有し且つ充分な耐久性を有する防傷ガラスが得られる。

(與施例)

以下の実施例において本発明を更に詳細に説明する。なお、本発明は下記実施例に限定されるものではない。

第1表:各種処理ガラス板と水との接触角(度)

アルゴンガス	アルゴンガス ガラス板隔度(で)		
圧力(Torr)	60	150	3 0 0
2 × 1 0 -2	5 9	28	2 5
7 × 1 0 ⁻³	3 5	2 2	1 2
1 5 × 1 0 ⁻³	3 0	1 6	8

第1表の結果より、SiO2のスパッタ成膜中の ガラス板温度が高い方が、又、成膜中のアルゴ ンガス圧力の高い方が腐食後の水滴との接触角 が小さく、よく濡れることが判る。接触角 1 6° 以下のものは実質上満状ではなく平らで、視認 性については特に問題がない。

ちなみに、未処理のガラス板では接触角 4 2° であり、又、腐蝕前の SiO。 成膜済のガラス板 では 40° である。 これらのガラス板では表面に 付着した水筒が外観上は小さなレンズの働きを するため視認性が劣る。 更に ウィンドガラスと して車輌に使用した場合、 人体の発汗等による 車窒側の低りについても、 通常のガラス板では

The second secon

白く優るのに対し、接触角 1 6°以下の本発明の処理ガラス板では濡れるのみで小液滴を形成しないため白く登ることがない。

以上の本務明における防殺化の現象は次のように説明できる。

又、スパッタ条件により接触角が異なるのは次の様に説明できる。

ガラス板の温度が上昇すると第2図に示す

厚さてスパッタ成膜し、弗化水梨酸水溶液濃度 及び浸流時間を変えて腐蝕試験を行ない、水滴 との接触角を測定するとともにASTM-D1003-61に規定されたヘーズメータを用いて暴価を 調べた。 最価測定における測定点は 4 点とした。 なお、通常のウインドガラスの最価は 0.15~0.1 多程度である。結果を第2表に示す。

第2表:各種腐蝕条件に於ける接触角(上段,

度)と雰価(下段,多)

Q / C sx pm (1 ex 7 x 7				
设度 (分) (重量多)	3	1 0	3 0	60
	15~3	5 ~ 3	3	3
2	0.2~7	5~7	7~8	7~8
	1 9	8	5~7	5~1
0.5	0.3	1.5~25	~ 2	5 ~ 4
	3 5	1 7	8	8
0.15	Q15~1	015~01	015~01	Q15~Q1
3.0.4	4 0	4 0	3 2	2 1
0.01	015~1	015~01	015-01	015-01

第2表より、2重量多弗化水素酸水溶液を用

SiO2 スパッタ膜2の構造は、柱状結晶の太さ即ち結晶粒子の大きさが増し、腐蝕によって形成される凹凸が粗くなる。又、アルゴンガス圧力が高くなっても同様な現象が起る。

ガラス板温度が低く、又アルゴンカス圧力が低い場合には極めて微小の柱状結晶が生成し、 腐蝕後SiO、スペッタ膜2の表面に極めて微細 な凹凸が形成されるため水湖れに対して効果を 示さなくなると考えられる。

外観上効果を有すると判定されるのは接触角16°以下であり、このような状態を得るには本実施例における腐蝕条件のもとでは、アルゴンガス圧力15×10⁻¹ Torrのときはガラス板温度150℃以上、又、アルゴンガス圧力7×10⁻¹ Torrのときはガラス板温度300℃以上がSiO2スパッタ膜の成膜条件として好遊である。
実施例2:弗化水器酸膜度及び投資時間と接触角及び登価との関係

アルゴンガス圧力 15×10⁻³ Torr、ガラス板 温度 300℃でガラス板上に SiO₂ を 5000 Å の

いた場合にはスペッタ膜の腐蝕が急速で、10 分後には目視で飲かに狙ったことが判り、又腐 蝕の程度にはらつきがある。又、30分以上侵 **波すると全面が一様に殴り、外観もすりカラス** 状になる。 これに対し、 0.3 重量多弗化水岩酸 水稻液を用いた場合には、磊価はあまり高くは ならないが、水を噴霧した場合局所的に水筒状 となる等接触角の安定性がなく、処理面の均一 性が無いと考えられる。弗化水梨酸水溶液淡度、 Q15重量がでは、浸漬時間がほぼ3 0 分以降60 . 分まで接触角は 8°、 桑価は Q15~Q1 多で安定す る。又、仕上りも見掛け上極めて均一で、水流 を噴霧した場合も表面の濡れ状態は均一である。 更に弗化水素酸水溶液凝度を 0.01 重量 がまで低 下させた場合、30分未満の浸波時間では概ね 腐蝕が進行していないと考えられる。又、6° 分浸渍しても所定の効果が得られず、生産性の 点で劣る。

したがって、腐蝕条件としては、 常温の Q15 近近 9 弗化水素酸水溶液を用いた場合、 3 O 分 間及費するのが特性及び生産性の点で好ましい。 又、腐蝕液としては弗化水素酸の他に、これ に硝酸、硫酸等の酸化性の酸又は塩を加えた混 酸腐蝕液も用いることができることはいりまで もない。

実施例 3 : 種々の無機酸化物を用いた防負ウインドガラスの製造

SiO,の代りにTiO,、ALO, In,O, (Snドーブ)を用いて、実施例1及び実施例2と同様の実験を行った結果、SiO,の場合とほぼ同等に濡れ性の向上した防張ウインドガラスが得られた。

英施例 4 : SiO₂ スパッタ膜の膜厚と叠価との 関係

実施例 1 と同様の方法で SiO. の膜厚を変化させて防録ウインドガラスを製造し、JISR3212 に従ってナーパ摩耗試験を行った。 腐蝕前及び腐蝕後の膜厚と負価との関係を第 4 図に示す。 図から明らかなように、腐蝕前には負価は規格の+2 乡以下であるが、膜厚 4000 Å 未満のも

本発明は開天や冬季にも致り離く実用上充分

を対人性を有する防機ガラスを提供するものであるため、車輌に本発明品を用いた場合ははもの

時の視認性を向上させ安全性をあめるととに

車輌の商品価値を高めるものとなる。又保
の各種分野においても関
できるものであり、
では、
がラス素材としての種々の効果を実する。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

のは 3 ~ 5 多の鉛価を示し、耐キズ付性に劣る ことがわかる。又、反対にあまり膜厚が厚くて も効果は変わらない。したがって S i O₃ の膜原 としては 4000 ~ 6000 Å程度が好ましい。

(発明の効果)

更に、ガラス表面に防殺剤の被膜を形成したり、親水性プラスチックシートを貼付した従来品に比べて、本発明品はガラス表面に硬い無機酸化物の薄膜を形成したものであるため耐久性に優れ例をはワイパー使用 3000 時間後に於ても防動効果が持続する。

第1図はSiO。スペッタ膜とその表面に付着 した水筒との接触角を示す断面図、

第2図はガラス板の表面上に形成されたSiO。 スペッタ際の構造を示す図、

第3図はSiO。スパッタ膜の化学腐蝕前後の 表面の形状変化を示す図、

第4図は化学腐蝕前後におけるSiO。スパッタ膜の膜厚と飛師との関係を示す図である。

図中、

1 ··· ガラス板 2 ··· SiO₁ スパッタ膜

3 ... 水商 4 ... 接触角

5 … 腐蝕前の表面 6 … 腐蝕後の表面

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